

**The American Association of Lutheran Churches (TAALC)  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS)**

**OPERATING AGREEMENT II**

**ISSUES RESULTING FROM THE MOVEMENT OF  
CONGREGATIONS/PASTORS BETWEEN ROSTERS**

Operating Agreement I provides processes for the movement of congregations and ordained ministers between rosters of The American Association of Lutheran Churches and The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. This Operating Agreement II provides detailed responses to ecclesiastical supervision, vacancy service and voting privilege issues associated with the movement of congregations and ordained ministers between rosters. Operating Agreement II, to which additional policy may be added as situations arise, intends to honor existing practices as articulated in the constitutions and bylaws of both church bodies.

The following general principles apply in every case:

- Graduates from either church body's seminaries who have been declared qualified for service may receive first calls from either church body.
- TAALC probationary pastors and LCMS vicars/interns may not hold a position of service in the partner church body until rostered as pastors.
- A pastor of one church body who serves in a congregation of the other church body will be welcomed and encouraged to participate in activities in that church body.

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**RE: ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISION**

- (A) When a congregation and its pastor determine to move their membership to the partner church body:
1. The congregation will continue to be responsible for the day-to-day supervision of the pastor.
  2. Ecclesiastical supervision of the congregation and the pastor will be provided by the ecclesiastical supervisor of the church body where membership is currently held.
  3. Submission of official reports of membership transfer by ecclesiastical supervisors will finalize the movement of the congregation's and its pastor's memberships to the partner church body. Ecclesiastical supervision then becomes the responsibility of the ecclesiastical supervisor of the receiving church body.
- (B) When a pastor serves a multi-point parish that includes member congregations of both partner church bodies:
1. Each congregation will be subject to ecclesiastical supervision by its own church body.

2. Each congregation will be responsible for the day-to-day supervision of the work and conduct of the pastor according to the agreements that form the basis of the multi-point parish arrangement.
3. Ecclesiastical supervision of the doctrine, life, and administration of the pastor of a multi-point parish will be provided by his ecclesiastical supervisor as determined by his own church body membership.

(C) When a pastor provides temporary service to a congregation of the partner church body:

1. The congregation will be responsible for the day-to-day supervision of the conduct of the pastor in his work.
2. The pastor's ecclesiastical supervisor will provide supervision of his doctrine, life, and administration.

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RE: TEMPORARY (VACANCY) SERVICE

(A) When a congregation is interested in temporary service by a pastor of a partner church body:

1. The congregation will first inform its ecclesiastical supervisor of its interest in requesting temporary service from a rostered pastor of the partner church body.
2. The ecclesiastical supervisor of the congregation will contact the ecclesiastical supervisor of the pastor to discuss his availability and suitability.
3. Upon positive agreement by both ecclesiastical supervisors, the ecclesiastical supervisor of the congregation will advise the congregation regarding the pastor's availability.
4. Pastors providing temporary service to congregations of a partner church body will honor and respect the policies and practices of the partner church body.

(B) When a retired pastor is interested in making himself available to provide temporary service to congregations of the partner church body:

1. He will make his availability known to his ecclesiastical supervisor.
2. His ecclesiastical supervisor will discuss the pastor's availability and suitability with his counterpart in the partner church body.
3. Upon positive agreement, the ecclesiastical supervisor in the partner church body will make the pastor's availability known to his congregations.

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RE: VOTING PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY

- (A) When a pastor provides temporary service to a congregation of the partner church body:
1. He continues to enjoy all due rights and privileges of membership in the church body of which he is a member but has no voting privilege in the partner church body.
  2. A congregation served on a temporary basis by a rostered pastor of the partner church body will not be entitled to a pastoral vote if it is not also being served by a rostered pastor of its own church body.
- (B) When a pastor serves a multi-point parish that includes member congregations of both partner church bodies:
1. Individual congregations of multi-point parishes that are comprised of congregations from both partner church bodies will be subject to their own church bodies' bylaws and regulations governing voting rights and responsibilities.
  2. Congregations in multi-point parishes whose pastors are rostered by the partner church body will not be entitled to a pastoral vote if they are not also served by a rostered pastor of their own church body.
  4. A pastor will enjoy voting privilege only in the church body in which he is rostered.